

February, 2006 Meeting Update

Summary: February 2006 was a busy month for the 2008 Medic One/EMS Levy **Stakeholders**. Fully engrossed in reviewing the current EMS program, the group requested additional meetings to ensure they had the time necessary to analyze each of EMS's primary service areas and prepare draft recommendations for the next EMS levy.

With agency templates submitted and an average cost of ALS service being calculated, the **ALS Subcommittee** recommended proceeding with a unit projection proposal that will add 2.5 medic units over the length of a six-year EMS levy. The proposal anticipates moderate growth in call volumes, primarily suburban areas, and supports anticipated increases in the population of 65+ in the region.

The **BLS Subcommittee** adopted a funding formula proposal that would be based on the Status Quo **with any new money** (i.e. CPI and/or additional levy funding directed to BLS) **allocated to agencies 50/50 based on Assessed Value and Call Volumes, and added to the base funding that the agency received the previous year.** The group proposed that language stating that the BLS money collected for BLS services should be as close to 100% of what it actually costs for these agencies to provide BLS be part of their recommendations. Additionally, they proposed two Strategic Initiatives to examine how the costs to provide BLS services can be better covered through the levy, and how we can provide better BLS support to vulnerable agencies.

The **Regional Services/Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee** met twice in the month of February to complete its review of the current EMS programs and initiatives already in place, and propose possible enhancements or new programs to improve our already outstanding system. The group is proposing recommendations to be discussed and finalized at the March 28th, 2006 meeting.

The following meetings have been scheduled:

The March 2, 2006 meeting **Stakeholders Meeting** (1st Thursday of each month) IS CANCELLED.

March 9, 2006: BLS Subcommittee Meeting (2nd Thursday of each month) from 1:30PM-3:30PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Avenue SE, Mercer Island)

March 21, 2006: ALS Subcommittee Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month) from 1:00PM-3:00PM at Kirkland Fire Station #22 (6602 108th Avenue NE, Kirkland)

March 28, 2006: Regional Services/ Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting (4th Tuesday of each month) from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Mercer Island Fire Station #91 (3030 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island)

If you have any questions regarding the levy process or would like copies of meeting notes or updates, please contact **Helen Chatalas** at (206) 296-4598 or by e-mail at helen.chatalas@metrokc.gov. These documents will also be accessible at the EMS homepage (<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems>) in the very near future.